

**REMARKS**

After entry of this amendment, claims 1 - 10, 12, 46-48, 52, 53, 81, 82, 85, 174 - 178 remain in this case. The amendments to the claims are being made to eliminate all multiple dependencies, so as to reduce the filing fee.

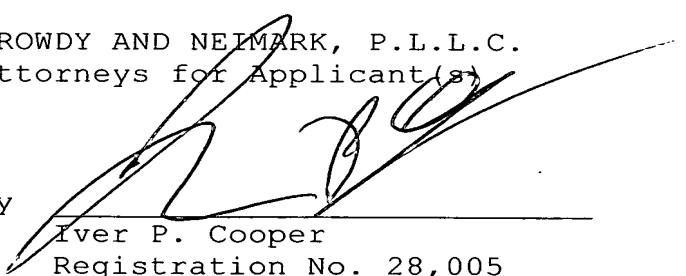
The amendments made above are made entirely without prejudice, the applicant(s) respectively reserving the right to add claims at a later stage commensurate in scope with the claims which may have been eliminated by the removal of all multi-dependencies. Regardless, the amendments made above are not "narrowing" amendments. The scope of the independent claims has not been reduced.

Applicant respectfully await the results of a first examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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